



## The P2 Corner

### BUSINESS HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH



RON ERIKSEN, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER II

The April 2002 business waste collection was held to help small business dispose of small quantities of hazardous waste. Small businesses often cannot afford hazardous waste disposal costs, such as mobilization and minimum container costs. Holding a collection like this allows generators to share those expenses, making it easier for local small businesses to get rid of wastes legally and safely. This collection was sponsored by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) and the Public Works and Utilities Department. Businesses for Environmental Leadership also promoted the collection.



Businesses turned in 839 lbs of liquid pesticides, 1008 lbs of oil based paint, 221 lbs of fluorescent tubes, 288 lbs of bulk flammable liquids, 214 lbs of paint related materials (strippers, thinners, etc.), 315 lbs of oil sludge, 32 lbs of aerosols, 517 lbs of flammable solids (resins, roofing tar) and oxidizers (fertilizers), and 12 lbs of mercury. The total cost to the generators for this collection was about \$5000.



LLCHD will be holding another small business collection event in November. Businesses need to make appointments. If we have enough interest from businesses, LLCHD might hold another event prior to the November collection. Please contact 441-8040 for information or to participate.



## Lancaster County Extension Saving Money, Protecting Environment

GARY C. BERGMAN, EXTENSION EDUCATOR AND UNIT LEADER

There are two costs associated with doing business that managers often do not take into consideration when calculating profit and loss: disposal costs and energy use costs. In one step, a business can reduce both costs. Most offices and other public buildings rely on fluorescent lighting. The typical fluorescent tube contains

mercury and other hazardous materials. It is illegal to dispose of these items in the Lincoln landfill. Recycling is the best option for disposing of these items.

## LEADING THE WAY: BETTER BUSINESS AND A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

HARRY HEAFER, COORDINATOR, KEEP LINCOLN AND LANCASTER COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Businesses for Environmental Leadership (BEL) is a volunteer program made up of business in Lincoln and Lancaster County that have made a commitment to protecting and preserving the environment for future generations. The program stresses a "business-to-business" approach to waste reduction and energy efficiency. Programs integrate pollution prevention (P2) with energy and resource conservation.



reaching a high standard of environmental leadership and recognition. The three levels of recognition and participation are: Certification Level, Achievement Level and Excellence Level. To achieve each level's recognition medallion, businesses must meet various criteria established for that level.

BEL's goals are to:

**PROTECT** employees and the community by minimizing waste through source reduction, reuse, and recycling;

**EDUCATE** employees and the community about hazards by promoting the benefits of source reduction and energy conservation;

**ENCOURAGE** employees and the community to adopt environmentally sound practices; and,

**RECOGNIZE** employees and community members by honoring those who use environmentally responsible business practices.

The steering committee, made up of 20 small business owners, has developed a three-stage process for

Interested businesses must first complete a basic application form to initiate the process. After that, progress is at the rate the business choose. However, there are many agencies, other businesses, and consultants available to guide businesses to higher standards and levels of efficiency and environmental excellence. The BEL Steering Committee members are currently receiving free confidential technical assistance. This assistance includes an energy audit from Lincoln Electric Service and a waste audit looking at the processes used in the business and the waste produced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**E J Schumaker** (441-8036) has recently been appointed Grant Coordinator II and has been given responsibility for the Businesses for Environmental Leadership program.

## FIRST HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION A SUCCESS

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department held the first Household Hazardous Waste Collection for 2002 on April 13 at Goodyear in Havelock. Three hundred twenty-two vehicles passed through the collection site, and we collected 8807 lbs of waste. Out of that waste, we collected 710 lbs of solid and liquid pesticides. We had encouraged people to drop off Dursban, a banned pesticide.

Goodyear provided 16 people to help out at the collection. The collection is a good example of

BETH MANN, GRANT COORDINATOR II



government, business, and private citizens cooperating to keep hazardous materials out of Lincoln's landfill.

Each year, the LLCHD conducts between seven and nine collections at various locations. The next collection will be held on Friday, June 14, at Union College.

*If you need more information call Beth at 441-6235.*



## H.E.L.P. YOUR BUSINESS CAMPAIGN (HAVE EMPLOYEES DO LITTER PICKUP)

### *How Clean Is Your Parking Lot and Landscaping?*

HARRY HEAFER, COORDINATOR, KEEP LINCOLN AND LANCASTER  
COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Do you feel the outside appearance of your establishment lets your customers know the quality of service/merchandise your business offers? You keep the inside of your business clean because you know that a dirty store doesn't make a good impression on customers. But how about your parking lot or landscaping? Do you allow litter to accumulate in the landscaping or sit in the lot so the next gust of wind blows it down the street to an adjacent business? Take a fresh look at the outside of your business to see how it might look to potential customers driving past. What image does your store give to the community?

The outside of your business can tell a lot to prospective customers and the citizens of Lincoln. A clean storefront, landscaping, and parking lot shows you care not only about your business but about your community as well. You should have wind-resistant trash containers that customers can use rather than dropping trash on the ground. Make sure that you have several trash containers conveniently located where they will be used.

Place an ash tray by your door for customers. Place ash trays in break areas where your employees might smoke. Instruct your employees to dispose of their cigarette butts properly?

Keep grass areas free of litter so when the grass is mowed that single piece of litter doesn't become 1,000 pieces. You might want to contract with your lawn mowing contractor to pick up any litter before mowing. Weeds growing in the sidewalk cracks can also create a negative image of a business.

Help keep Lincoln clean by ensuring any litter around your business is picked up on a daily basis. For more information call Harry Heafer at 441-8035 or visit the KLLB web page at [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/envirom/kllcb/index](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/envirom/kllcb/index).

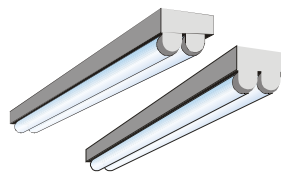
## COUNTY EXTENSION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

On the other hand, if a business does not have fluorescent tubes, there is less threat of mercury release and the costs of disposal and recycling go down. In addition, the newer alternative light sources use less electricity. Using less electricity saves money. Using less electricity is also good for the environment because fewer resources are used to produce energy. The Extension Education Center staff discovered the advantages of using low-mercury fluorescent bulbs.



With Lancaster County Board support, we began a refurbishing plan about a year ago to repair wear from 17 years of use by over 20,000 people per year. A casual observer might quickly notice obvious repairs and improvements: replaced carpets and newly painted walls. Some of the most significant and rewarding improvements are harder to see. Upgrading to an energy-efficient lighting system is one example of how the Extension Education Center could be improved at a reasonable cost. Not only would it enhance the classroom environment but it would contribute to long-term cost savings.

Within the last ten years, lamp manufacturers have developed an electronic design ballast. Quickly replacing the older, electromagnetic types, they operate at frequencies much higher than 60 Hertz; the typical electronic ballast operates at about 20,000–25,000 Hertz. Because they control a much higher frequency current, less electric energy is needed to



produce the same level of illumination. The higher frequency also eliminates the annoying problems of light flicker and the buzzing noise traditionally identified with the older, electromagnetic types.

## COUNTY EXTENSION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In addition to improved quality of lighting, high-efficiency electronic ballasts generate about 30 degrees C less heat and last much longer. This reduced heat reduces the burden on the building's cooling system during the warmer months. Because the cooling system does not work so hard, the system lasts longer and the Extension Office uses less energy. Because of the clear advantages of electronic ballasts, we decided to retrofit entire buildings, even though existing electromagnetic ballasts still remain functioning.

Changing over to energy saving electronic fixtures may be something to consider for your own office lighting situation. Selecting new fluorescent lamps such as the T-8 Lamp will further reduce energy requirements. An added bonus is less mercury in the newer lamps—a costly and major environmental consideration when disposing of older style fluorescent lamps.

For more information, or if you have questions, contact Gary C. Bergman 402-441-7180 or fax at 402-441-7148.



*Please circulate this issue among your staff and coworkers.*

## LEADING WAY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

and/or recycled. After these audits are completed, the businesses will receive a list of preferred or recommended practices they can implement to cut costs and reduce waste.

Your small business can benefit from participating by learning the most environmentally sound management practices and receive the resources to help implement them. Participants receive free, confidential technical assistance to reduce waste, risk, and regulatory burdens. They become more competitive by learning to operate more efficiently and economically. Businesses that achieve new levels of excellence are recognized as environmental leaders and earn respect of their peers along with the trust of customers and the community.

Businesses interested in more information about the BEL should contact E J Schumaker, Coordinator, at 441-8036 or email her at [eschumaker@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:eschumaker@ci.lincoln.ne.us).

*BEL is funded by a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.*



### Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

3140 "N" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510-1514

<http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/enviro/pollu/>

Bruce Dart, MS ..... Health Director  
Phil Rooney, Ph.D. .... Editor/Layout

***The Ethic*** is published quarterly by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and is distributed to Special Waste Permit holders and other businesses in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**For more information or for P2 technical assistance, call 441-8040.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department  
3140 "N" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510-1514

